Telecommunications Corporation for Major cities

1465. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 485 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 6th May, 1985 regarding "Telecommunication Corporations for the Major cities" and state:

(a) whether Government have re-examined the matter and taken any final decision in this regard; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The Government has not taken any decision in the matter.

News item captioned "CCI cheated of Rs. 10 lakhs in deal"

1466. DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Indian Express* of 11th August, 1985 captioned "CCI cheated of Rs. 10 lakhs in deal".

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any action has been initiated in the matter; if so, with what results;

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to ensure that such incidents do not occur in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Cement deal; murky aspect surfaces" which appeared in the *Indian Express* of 11th August, 1985.

(b) The news item had alleged irregularities in the transactions between Cement Corporation of India and M|s. Venad Agencies.

(c) and (d) Cement Corporation has lodged in July, 1985, an FIR with the Police at Calicut, Kerala, complaining that M/s. Venad Agencies had cheated them to the tune of Rs. 10 lakhs. State Police have undertaken investigation of the case.

(e) The Cement Corporation of India have issued strict instructions once again to their Zonal, Regional and Sales Offices to ensure realisation of value in full before releasing stocks and also to ensure safe custody of cement.

Prices of coal and power

1467. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing prices of coal and power are far below the costs of their production; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor and what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) The existing prices of coal are below the cost of production which has gone up due to increase in the cost of inputs, impact of higher depreciation and interest charges, escalation in salaries and wages on account of revision of ceiling for ex-gratia, revision of rates of dearness allowances including arrears, higher variable dearness allowance due to rise in the consumer price index, increase in the underground allowance and other expenses like increments, railway fare etc.

All efforts are being made to increase production and productivity in the coal companies with a view to providing them with a sound financial base as well as to make them fully poised to meet the grow-